

Faith Indeed.

Senator Jones, of Nevada, has the reputation in Washington of having more faith in Providence than all the rest of the Senate put together, and this is the account of its origin: "I have always believed in Providence since one day, years ago, when I was Sheriff in Shasta county. It was a rooster of a day, and I was returning on horseback from a hunt for some snice robbers. I was slowly following a faint mountain trail and the sun was just baking me, and the horse was in a lather. I came under the shadow of a big rock and thought it would be pleasant to get off and have a smoke. I sat down on a cool boulder, cut a pipeful from my plug, filled my pipe and felt for a match. Well, Joe, there wasn't a match anywhere in my pockets. I searched and searched, but there was no match. I tell you, Joe, I felt worse over that disappointment than I have done since when the market has gone back on me and hit me for a hundred thousand on a clip. But while I sat there on that boulder wrapped in gloom, what d'ye suppose my eye fell suddenly on—a match, by gracious, lying on the trail not six feet away from me! I used it—though I was a little afraid to touch it at first—and had my smoke. So you needn't worry about how this political fight is going to come out. A man for whom Providence will go to the trouble of providing a match for a smoke in the wilds of Sierra Nevada, where man's foot scarcely ever treads, isn't likely to get left when it comes to a common place little thing like being elected to the United States Senate. Ever since that time," concluded the Senator, "I've never refused a dollar to a person, and have generally done my best, in a quiet, unobtrusive way, to make myself solid with the people who have the pull on Providence."

The Czar.

THE LIFE HE LEADS.
My friend the messenger was on his way to St. Petersburg in the autumn of last year, when his train stopped at a small Russian way station, and was shunted off upon a side track. The station yard was filled with soldiers, filing off into lines along the main track.
The messenger let down his window and put out his head to discover the cause of the delay. A soldier said something to him in Russian, then pointed his gun at his head. A travelling companion pulled the messenger back, saying, "you don't understand Russian, eh? That man told you that if you didn't shut the window and pull down the curtain he would blow your brains out." Naturally the window came up and the curtain came down. They sat thus in the darkened compartment for a quarter of an hour. Then, with a prodigious rattle and roar, there flashed by them on the main track a short express train. Twenty minutes more another rushed past in the same direction. Then, after some minutes, the soldier shouted to them that they might lift the blind, and they resumed their journey. Inquiry revealed that the Czar had passed them on his way to Skierniewice meeting, and that these precautions were ordered all along the line. No one knew which of the trains bore him.

A PICTURE OF THE CZAR.

The Czar himself seems to have many flatterers, but no friends. I have talked, I dare say, at one time or another, with a score of people who have met him and are fairly qualified to judge what manner of man he is. Almost invariably he is described as a big, burly, bearish sort of man, strangely unlike any of his more recent ancestors on either side, and with a face of a curious Teuton-Tartar type, picturesque but unpleasant. He has vast physical strength, of the blacksmith sort, and has the kind of mind, which not infrequently goes with that order of body—slow, honest, obstinate, confiding where faith is reposed, suspicious everywhere else. In a way George III. must have been of the same nature. He was, with Louis XIV, rather contemptuously celebrated by his contemporary critics as one of the two faithful husbands among the sovereigns of Europe. Good husbands seem to make bad kings. The present Czar is said to be a most devoted and single-minded spouse—the first of his race. He is par excellence a family man, to whom the highest happiness would be the home circle, if he were allowed to have a home. His tastes are simple; he eats plainly and heavily; before the burden of empire came upon him he used to be a great sleeper, a mighty hunter, a bluff friend of the few he liked, a hater of formalities, diplomacy, and politics generally—in short, a good, wholesome, rough, plebeian prince, stupid and choleric, but honest and true. Fate never played on mortal a crueler trick than when she suddenly hurled upon this man the load of Czarship. To be absolute master of over 100,000,000 of human beings, is in itself a task of inconceivable magnitude. When, further, the task is complicated by organized robbery among officials and organized murder among subjects, by continued necessity of provoking war by aggression abroad and ceaseless terror of assassination at home, it becomes simply impossible.

A LIFE OF TERROR.

A less stubborn and less conscientious man than the Czar would have cut his throat long ago under the frightful load imposed upon him. He suffers and sticks to his post. He does so good to himself or anybody else. His wife is a pale spectre of her former self, looking old enough to be the mother of her older, but marvellously reserved sister, the Princess of Wales, sun and grey haired with her life of right. Their eldest son, the Czarovitch, a boy of eighteen, is in a decline

from which there is little hope of recovery—simply terrified out of his life. But the Czar still manfully tries to be Czar. The task is beyond him. If there could be a man, made up of Bismarck, Washington, Richelieu, Bonaparte and Tamerlane put on the Russian throne, perhaps he could hold his place and compel success.
The present Czar lives in the dazed nightmare of terror which paralyzes a prisoner under indefinite sentence of death. Any moment the messenger of the axe may appear. He cannot sleep; when he eats, it is as an animal, not as the master of the world's costliest cuisine. He tries to work, without understanding the things he does or caring for them. He looks into every man's face for a sign of murderous knowledge. He trusts nothing—nobody. The gulf between what he is and what he is supposed to be is so abysmal—the joke of being at once the most powerful man on earth and the poorest, hunted slave in existence is so grimly horrible—that he becomes a madman almost, in the effort to comprehend the two extremes. The longing to assert himself to put to the test his autocracy, drives him to wild and foolish measures. His whole course toward his hated cousin, the Battenberg, and the Bulgarians has been that of a crazy man. People who know Russia best, expect that his brain will give way under the strain long before we have heard the last of the Bulgarian question.—New York Times.

History of Kissing.

The story runs that kissing was introduced into England by Rowena, the daughter of Hengist, the Saxon. At a banquet which was given by the British monarch in honor of his allies, the Princess, after pressing the brimming beaker to her lips, saluted the astonished and delighted Vortigern with a little kiss, after the manner of her own people. So well did the kiss thrive in the genial climate of England that, from being an occasional luxury, it soon became an every day enjoyment, and the English soon became celebrated far and near as a kissing people. In fact, so far had their celebrity spread in this respect that when Cavendish, the biographer of the great "child of honor, Cardinal Wolsey," visited a French nobleman at his chateau, the lady of the house, on entering the room with her train of attendant maidens for the purpose of welcoming the guest of her husband, thus accosted him: "Forasmuch as ye be an Englishman, whose custom it is in your country to kiss all ladies and gentlemen without offense, and although it be not so here in the realm, yet will I be so bold as to kiss you, and so shall all my maidens." Whereupon the rafters of the chateau rang again with the heartiness of the osculation, no doubt to the great satisfaction of the fair chateau herself, her many and merry maidens, and, above all, to Cavendish himself. In the reign of Edward IV, a guest was expected on his arrival, and also on his departure, to salute not only his hostess but all the ladies of the family. In fact, no occasion was lost on which to bestow a kiss; and Shakespeare makes bluff King Hal say at Wolsey's banquet at Hampton Court Palace, after he had danced with Annie Boloyne: "I were unmannerly to take you out and not to kiss you." From England kissing found its way to this country, though it is to be regretted that the fathers of the country were altogether too puritanical to give the delicious pastime full swing. It was to be done decorously and in order, and woe betide the loving husband who dared to invade the sanctity on the Sabbath by kissing his wife on that sacred day.

To such a degree had the practice of kissing attained in England that ladies were accustomed to use kissing combs, composed of ambergris and other ingredients, for the purpose of sweetening their breath. These, beyond all question, were the forerunners of the cachou, trix and other vile things with which "the ladies of the present day taint their breath." "Their breaths with sweetmeats tainted are," says Mercutio. When Whitebach was the ambassador of Oliver Cromwell to the Court of Christine of Sweden, the Queen one day, accompanied by her ladies, dined with him, and the Queen, nothing loath, perhaps for a lesson, commanded the ambassador to teach her suite the English mode of salutation. Whitebach fell to work at his pleasing task immediately, and after a few "coy and pretty defenses" from his pupils, soon found in them the most apt of scholars and ready to carry out his instructions to the letter. But the practice of universal kissing in England fell into disuse. In the time of those ascetic monarchs William and Mary it was very little practiced, and from that time out continued to be restricted to its proper use and employed only on proper occasions, such, for instance, as when a beauty is caught asleep or under the mistletoe, where it is always in order.—American Globe.

AUSTRALIAN STATISTICS FOR 1885.—Statistics of population and commerce in 1885 are just to hand. The total population of all Australia and the islands of Tasmania and New Zealand combined on December 31, 1885, to 3,322,836, against 3,230,041 on the same date of 1884. Victoria is the most populous province, and is closely approached by New South Wales. Each of them contains nearly 1,000,000 people. Western Australia is sparsely populated, having only 35,186 people. The public debt of the colonies is placed at £140,970,119, of which £35,898,341 was contracted for railways, £5,717,249 for water supplies, and £4,770,491 for immigration. On December 31, 1884, the total debt was £126,350,558, so that an increase of debt in 1885 amounted to £14,619,561. As railways absorbed a large part of the expenditure above noted, it is of interest to note the proportions at-

tained by them in 1885. The capital cost of the open lines is placed at £79,851,040. The receipts in 1885 were £6,893,193, while the working expenses were £4,416,661. The average return on capital invested was 34 per cent., against 33 per cent. the previous year, indicating that receipts have not kept up with capital expenditure. The total import trade of the colonies was placed at £63,268,491, against £64,001,120 in 1884. The exports in 1885 were £51,553,486, against £54,572,572 in 1884. The decreased trade is stated to be due principally to the lower prices obtained for goods generally. On the whole the year was marked by steady progress in the development of the colonies.

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Nothing else gives such immediate relief and works so sure a cure in all affections of this class. That eminent physician, Prof. F. Sweetzer, of the Maine Medical School, Brunswick, Me., says:—"Medical science has produced no other remedy so good as AYER'S CHERRY PECTORAL. It is invaluable for diseases of the throat and lungs."

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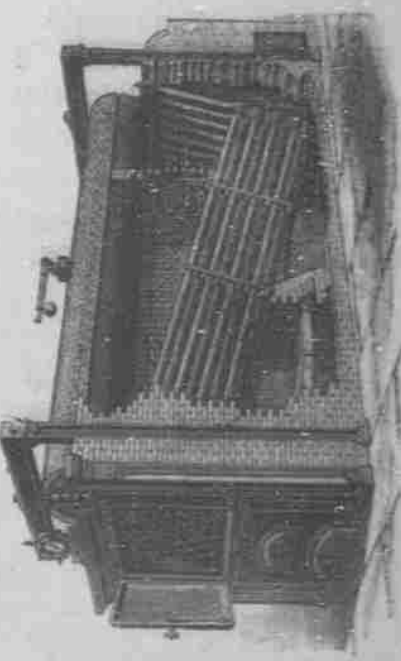
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has left me and has been

seen by her father, on the